

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2003, claims 23-25 and 27-30 have been cancelled, and claim 26 has been amended. Claim 26 remains in the application. Entry of these amendments, and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicants' attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. Specifically, claim 26 has been amended to recite the specific plasmids recited in cancelled claims 27 and 30. These amendments were made solely for the purpose of clarifying the language of the claims, and do not introduce new matter. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

III. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the helpful comments and suggestions provided by Examiner Kaushal during a telephonic interview with Applicants' undersigned representative held on October 10, 2003. The discussion centered on review of the proposed amendment to the claims and the verified statement regarding the English translation of the Korean priority application. Applicants have prepared this amendment and the accompanying verified statement in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, and with a good faith belief that these documents will suffice to place the application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find that further issues must be addressed prior to issuance of a notice of allowance, the courtesy of a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative would be greatly appreciated so that any remaining concerns or deficiencies can be addressed in a timely manner.

IV. PRIORITY

At page 2 of the Office Action, it was noted that the Applicants have not filed a certified English translation of the Korean priority application "as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b)". Applicants respectfully note that 35 U.S.C. §119(b) requires (1) a certified copy of the priority application and (2) an English translation, both of which were provided when the application was filed with the U.S.

Patent & Trademark Office on December 6, 2000. 35 U.S.C. §119(b) does not require a certified English translation of the priority application.

Applicants' undersigned representative sought clarification of this request during a telephone conversation with the Examiner on October 8, 2003, at which time the Examiner suggested Applicants submit a verified statement signed by the person who prepared the English translation, certifying that the English translation filed on December 6, 2000 is an accurate translation of the Korean priority application. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a verified statement signed by Won-hee Lee, which statement confirms that the English translation filed on December 6, 2000 is an accurate translation of the Korean priority application.

V. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification enables a vaccine comprising pTV-SIV/GE+pTV-SIV/pol that prevents SIV infection in rhesus monkeys, but does not reasonably provide enablement for all other vaccines. The claims have been amended to recite the vaccine characterized as enabled by the Examiner, namely a vaccine comprising pTV-SIV/GE and pTV-SIV/pol. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is not moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

At page 4 of the Office Action, claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., "Viral Immunol 13:343-51, 2000, ref of record," (Smith) in view of Daniel et al., "Science 258:1938-1941, 1992, ref of record," (Daniel). At page 5 of the Office Action, claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gottlinger et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,479,281 (Gottlinger) in view of Morris-Vasios et al., "J. Virol. 62:349-353, 1988," (Morris). At page 6 of the Office Action, claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gottlinger in view of Morris as applied to claim 24, and further in view of Hazama et al., "Vaccine 11:629-36, 1993," (Hazama).

The cancellation of claims 23-25 renders these rejections moot.

VII. CONCLUSION

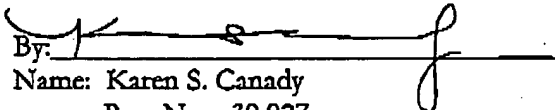
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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